REMARKS

Claims 1 and 15 have been amended to define the relative amounts of the polyester, glycidyl ester compound, glycidyl ether compound, and catalyst of the polyester composition of the present invention and to recite the carbonyl end group content of the polyester in the polyester composition. The amounts of the glycidyl ester compound and glycidyl ether compound are supported by the description on page 8, lines 7-11, and the description on page 9, lines 10-14, respectively, of the application. The amount of the catalyst is supported by the description on page 12, line 2, of the application. The carbonyl end group content is supported by the data of Example 8, Table 2, page 22, of the application.

Claim 16 has been cancelled.

The claims as amended are believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the prior art and, particularly, the prior art references (JP 58-52344, Gallucci, Helmond and Fujita) cited in the Office Action of December 10, 2003.

No motive is provided in the prior art to provide a polyester composition containing a polyester, glycidyl ester compound, glycidyl ether compound, and catalyst, in a polyester composition; particularly, in the amounts now specified in the claims. The art fails to provide the necessary motive because the results of such

combination cannot be reasonably predicted by a person of ordinary skill in the art. Nothing in the the prior art suggests that the particular combination of components recited in the claims will provide a polyester composition which, when melted, gives little gas emission and undergoes little viscosity change.

The unexpected properties of the polyester composition of the present invention are believed to result from the reaction mechanism described in the last paragraph of the Summary of the Invention of the present application. This paragraph reads:

> A glycidyl ester compound (b) and a glycidyl ether compound (c) that differ in the reactivity with carboxyl end groups of polyester are combined along with a catalyst (d) and added to a polyester (a). Of the resulting polyester composition, therefore, the increase in the carboxyl end group content will be significantly retarded owing to not only the reaction of the combined additives with the carboxyl end groups originally existing in the polyester (a) but also the reaction thereof with the carboxyl end groups additionally formed through hydrolysis of the polyester (a).

JP 58-52344 discloses using a glycidyl ester and a glycidyl ether, but is silent concerning a reaction mechanism such as the above. Gallucci, Helmond and Fujita disclose using an epoxy compound and catalyst. However, they also disclose no reaction mechanism. Thus, these references do not provide a suggestion,

teaching or motivation for providing the combination recited in the claims.

Notwithstanding the insufficiencies of the prior art to support a case of prima facie obviousness, the data of the examples and comparative examples of the application as identified in Tables 1 and 2, pages 19 and 22, demonstrate unexpected properties for the composition of the present invention sufficient to rebut any prima facie obviousness considered by the Office to be supported by the prior art. The data of the Examples show that the compositions of the present invention have unexpectedly high resistance to hydrolytic degradation and, when melted, have low gas emission and viscosity change as compared to compositions not containing each of the components of the composition of the present invention and/or not having a carboxyl end group content within the scope of that of the polyester of the composition of the present invention.

Removal of the rejections of the claims of the application is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

The foregoing is believed to be a complete and proper response to the Office Action dated December 10, 2003, and is believed to place this application in condition for allowance. If, however, minor issues remain that can be resolved by means of a telephone

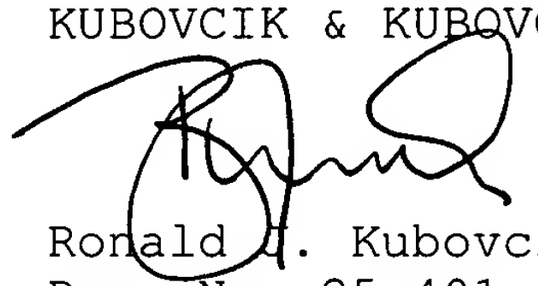
interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

In the event that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for any such extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 111833.

In the event any additional fees are required, please also charge our Deposit Account No. 111833.

Respectfully submitted,

KUBOVCIK & KUBOVCIK



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